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New York City 18
Longacre 4-0330

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Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 31.

I naturally am pleased to hear that you are inclined to go ahead with the article for us. Please take more time if you need it. I hope you will prepare the article only when it is reasonably convenient.

It is good of you to mention the articles by George Beadle and Max Delbruck. Although it will not be fatal to repeat some of the things they have said, you may wish to avoid some of the material they have covered. I am enclosing tearsheets of both articles.

I am grateful you have brought up the problem of illustrating your article. Although we are willing to undertake most of the actual work here, we must rely on the author for guidance. Sometimes the author supplies his own photographs, or advises us as to where we may obtain them. Sometimes we are able to send one of our own photographers to make the necessary pictures in the author's laboratory. When drawings or diagrams are necessary, the author generally supplies rough sketches or sources from which one of our artists may work. In any case, we try to shoulder as much of the burden as we can. We nevertheless like to have the benefit of whatever ideas the author possesses.

I might add an observation or two. We have found it useful to suggest that our authors adopt a frame of mind in which they address a hypothetical scientist in a field far removed from their own. This tends to eliminate overspecialized terms, while preserving concepts that any uneducated layman can grasp. This does not mean that our articles must be "written down." Many of our readers, in fact, are just these scientists in fields outside your own. Naturally they require a fairly high order of information.

Thank you once again for your interest in my suggestion.
I look forward to seeing your article with considerable
anticipation.

Cordially,

Dennis Flanagan

Dennis Flanagan
Managing Editor

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

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